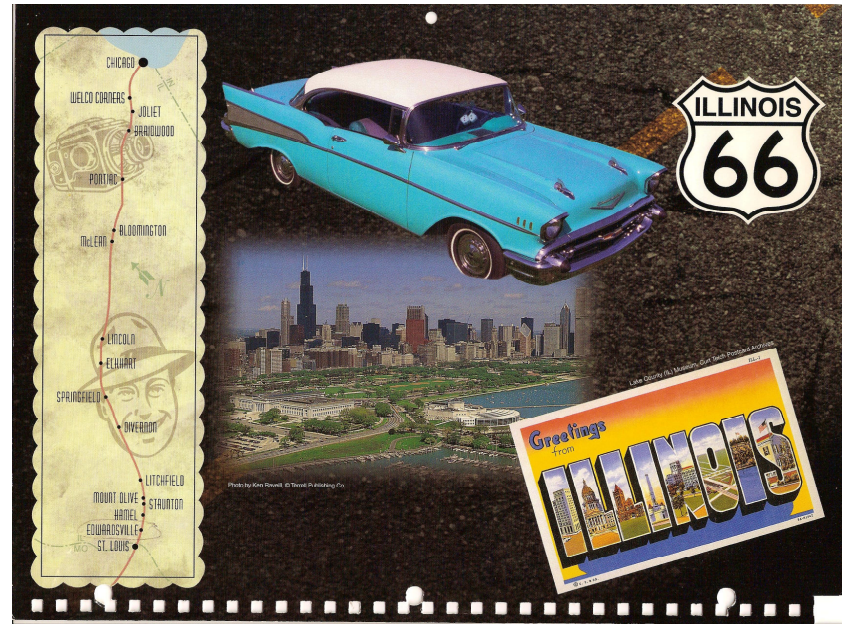




ROUTE 66
A SPECIALIZED COLLECTION
Jack Franz, PSS 6783

Over several trips, I have traveled the entire length of U.S. Route 66, often referred to as the “Mother Road.” My first excursion was in 1958 in a 1951 Volkswagen. I have shared my wonderful memories with quite a few friends. In 2000, I found a Route 66 calendar in my Christmas stocking.

When the year was over, I decided to turn the calendar into a stamp album, using the date blocks as stamp frames. The feature picture for each month of the calendar included a map of the towns in a particular state along Route 66. So I mounted the stamps (in an east-to-west direction which is the “only real way” to travel Route 66) by state and month for all the towns through which Route 66 passed. Because this is my special collection, I used the direction of travel rather than the more “standard” alphabetical order found in many precancel collections. I found and mounted stamps from all the towns that issued precancels. Now, I have a collection of 100 stamps on very unique “album” pages.



January 2001						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2000 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 New Year's Day	2 First Quarter	3	4	5	6
7 Precancel	8 Precancel	9 Full Moon	10 Precancel	11 Precancel	12 Precancel	13
14 Precancel	15 Precancel	16 Last Quarter	17 Precancel	18 Precancel	19 Precancel	20 Precancel
21	22	23	24 New Moon	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 February 2001 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Notes: _____ _____ _____		100% Recycled Paper Printed in the USA

“ROUTE 66”
THE SONG, TV SHOW, AND PRECANCEL TOWNS
Larry Patterson, PSS 5007

I mentioned my collection to former PSS member, John DeBoo from Albuquerque, NM. John took the idea one step further and found all the towns, that used precancels, in the various alignments of the road over the years. He came up with a total of 140 towns and 555 types. For various reasons over the years, Route 66 was realigned. So much so, that it is not possible to take a trip today though each of the towns listed in the accompanying article without a lot of backtracking on different roads.

In 1938 due to the efforts of the U.S. Highway 66 Association, Route 66 became the first highway to be completely paved. As a result of the construction of the Interstate highway system in recent times, much of the original highway no longer exists as U.S. Route 66. On June 27, 1985, it was officially removed from the United States Highway System.

There are many interesting stories about the realignment of various parts of Route 66. Albuquerque, the site of our Convention in both 2000 and 2012 was originally on a leg that went through Santa Fe from 1926 through 1937. That original route followed the Old Pecos Trail from Santa Rosa, through Dilia, Romeoville, and Pecos to Santa Fe, and then over the La Bajada Hill down to Albuquerque. This alignment was rather treacherous, especially in winter.

In 1937, Arthur T. Hannett was not reelected as governor of New Mexico. In his opinion, it was due to the politicians in Santa Fe. In an act of defiance before the new governor was sworn into office, Hannett vowed to get revenge by realigning Route 66 to bypass Santa Fe. With no time off, even for holidays, crews fought the elements to punch the road across a virgin landscape. The engineers disregarded whether the realigned corridor was publically or privately owned. Although the road was not quite finished when the new governor took office in January, it was too late to curtail the project. Cars were already using the new route. It not only cut off Santa Fe but also shortened the driving distance between Santa Rosa and Albuquerque by 90 miles.

In addition to Albuquerque, PSS Conventions have been held in four other towns located on Route 66: Los Angeles in 1941 and 1948; Chicago in 1928, 1935, 1942, and 1950; St. Louis in 1938, 1968, 1992, 2002, and 2008, and scheduled for 2014; and Springfield, IL in 1998.

The song was written by Bobby Troup in 1946; it was first recorded by Nat King Cole that same year. Since then, it has been recorded by many different artists in many different genres, including Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters; Mel Tormé, The Manhattan Transfer, Asleep At The Wheel, Chuck Berry, Buckwheat Zydeco, and The Rolling Stones.

“Well if you ever plan to motor west
Just take my way that's the highway that's the best
Get your kicks on Route 66

Route 66
Well it winds from Chicago to L.A.
More than 2000 miles all the way
Get your kicks on Route 66

Well goes from St. Louie down to Joplin, Missouri
Oklahoma City looks oh so pretty
You'll see Amarillo and Gallup, New Mexico
Flagstaff, Arizona don't forget Winona,
Kingman, Barstow, San Bernardino

Would you get hip to this kindly tip
And go take that California trip
Get your kicks on Route 66”

From 1960 through the 1964, Route 66 was the name of a popular TV series that starred Martin Milner and George Maharis. However, the TV show used different lyrics so it would not have to pay royalties to Mr. Troup.

There are several web sites on the Internet with information about Route 66. HistoricRoute66.com contains a lot of copy-written information about the famous route. Therefore, from it I took only the names of cities through which the highway passed at one time. Included with each town name is the number of precancel types currently listed for that town in the seventh edition of the *PSS Town and Type Catalog*. I obtained the mileage Route 66 took through each state from the Wikipedia web site.

The towns listed below appear in the east-to-west driving order from Chicago to Santa Monica. Be aware that quite a few of the devices used by these towns are from the vinyl era and may well not have even been in existence during the "Mother Road's" heyday.

Illinois (mileage in 1926 = 301)

Chicago, 93	Chenoa, 1	Carlinville, 2
Berwyn, 5	Lexington, 2	Gillespie, 1
Lyons, 1	Towanda, 1	Benld, 2
Plainfield, 4	Normal, 8	Divernon, 2
Braidwood, 2	Bloomington, 7	Farmersville, 1
Braceville, 1	McLean, 2	Waggoner, 2
Romeoville, 1	Atlanta, 2	Lichfield, 3
Joliet, 10	Lawndale, 1	Staunton, 2
Elwood, 2	Lincoln, 3	Hamel, 1
Wilmington, 4	Elkhart, 1	Edwardsville, 7
Gardner, 1	Williamsville, 1	Granite City, 7
Dwight, 6	Springfield, 15	Madison, 2
Odell, 1	Auburn, 2	Glen Carbon, 1
Pontiac, 13	Virден, 2	Collinsville, 2
	Girard, 2	East Saint Louis, 4

Missouri (mileage in 1926 = 317)

Saint Louis, 23	Leasburg, 1	Niangua, 1
Baldwin, 1	Cuba, 1	Marshfield, 1
Gray Summit, 1	Saint James, 1	Springfield, 7
Eureka, 1	Rolla, 2	Halltown, 1
Pacific, 1	Newburg, 1	Avilla, 1
Saint Clair, 1	Waynesville, 1	Carthage, 3
Sullivan, 1	Lebanon, 3	Webb City, 3
Bourbon, 2	Conway, 1	Joplin, 12

Kansas (mileage in 1926 = 13)

Galena, 2	Baxter Springs, 2
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Oklahoma (mileage in 1926 = 432)

Quapaw, 1	Bristow, 3	El Reno, 3
Commerce, 2	Depew, 1	Gleary, 1
Miami, 4	Stroud, 1	Hinton, 2
Afton, 1	Chandler, 4	Hydro, 1
Vinita, 3	Wellston, 1	Weaterford, 3
Chelsea, 2	Luther, 2	Clinton, 4
Claremore, 2	Arcadia, 2	Foss, 2
Catoosa, 1	Edmond, 2	Canute, 2
Tulsa, 12	Oklahoma City, 12	Elk City, 4
Sapulpa, 4	Bethany, 2	Sayre, 3
Kellyville, 1	Yukon, 1	Erick, 2

Texas (mileage in 1926 = 186)

Shamrock, 2	Groom, 2	Wildorado, 1
Alanreed, 1	Amarillo, 12	Vega, 1
McLean, 2	Bushland, 1	Adrian, 1

New Mexico (mileage in 1926 = 487)

San Jon, 4	Santa Fe, 9	Continental Divide, 1
Tucumcari, 2	Bernalillo, 1	Thoreau, 2
Santa Rosa, 2	Albuquerque, 13	Rehoboth, 1
Clines Corners, 1	Peralta, 1	Gallup, 2
Moriarty, 1	Los Lunas, 1	Mentmore, 1
Ribera, 1	San Fidel, 1	
Glorieta, 2	Grants, 2	

Arizona (mileage in 1926 = 401)

Lupton, 1	Joseph City, 1	Peach Springs, 1
Houck, 3	Winslow, 3	Kingman, 1
Sanders, 1	Flagstaff, 4	
Holbrook, 2	Williams, 2	

California (mileage in 1926 = 314)

Needles, 2	Upland, 3	Arcadia, 5
Newberry Springs, 1	Pomona, 9	Sierra Madre, 3
Barstow, 2	La Verne, 2	Pasadena, 8
Victorville, 2	San Dimas, 2	South Pasadena, 3
San Bernardino, 9	Glendora, 5	Beverly Hills, 6
Colton, 2	Claremont, 2	Los Angeles, 27
Rialto, 4	Azusa, 4	Santa Monica, 8
Cucamonga, 5	Duarte, 2	
Fontana, 3	Monrovia, 3	